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03/08/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP RESERVOIR COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2012 MEETING –

Town Hall Annex, Second Floor

Approved 4/12/2012

In attendance: Lisa Fredman, Martine Gougault, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoyer, David White.
 Since the committee has no defined membership, other "absentees" cannot be identified. Facilitator: David White. Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 12, May 10, June 14, Town Hall Annex, 2nd floor

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

Water bodies fund: The Finance Committee unanimously approved the warrant article requesting \$50,000 for this fund. David will ask DPW what its plans are for a ramp, which will not come out of the water bodies fund.

Scout help: Martine has met with a Girl Scout troop for girls of middle-school age, which is focusing on the environment this year and wants to help with the habitat garden. She also plans to meet with a Boy Scout troop for the same age group. Scouts could help with various things like planting, weeding, spreading mulch, and signage.

Some parents might help too.

Signage could consist of numbered descriptions near the edge, where they can be easily read without stepping into the bed, and corresponding numbers next to the plants. The first step needs to be a reference notebook with pictures and locations of the plants. Rachel already has pictures and information on some of the plants.

"Thank you" pin for volunteers like the Scouts? Lisa will check into possibilities.

Spring timetable: April 7, Saturday: Committee members clean up, reconnoiter, and prepare. April 22, Sunday (Earth Day), alternate April 29: Work day for Scouts.

Replacements for stolen shrubs: Martine suggests creeping juniper, red-twig dogwood, ninebark, winterberry, and fragrant sumac. Gallon pots of 15 of these would cost \$388 at 2011 prices. Spending this sum was approved.

Alternatively we could plant some smaller shrubs which would look less attractive to thieves.

We have been offered some donations: spicebush, cranberry bush, and male winterberry (buy females). Elizabeth could add Virginia creeper (to climb the fence above the outflow wall), Solomon's seal, and possibly another spicebush.

Perennials: Martine suggested buying four trays of plugs, to be planted by the Scouts, possibly instead of some of the shrubs. Depending on whether the Scouts choose April 22 or 29, committee members should plant the shrubs on the alternate day.

Fencing: About 500 feet are needed. Green mesh, 1" x 4", 4 feet tall, would cost about \$360 plus about \$300 for stakes. A 2-foot high fence would be cheaper and enable the plants to be seen better. Black mesh may be preferable to green. We will buy one roll of 2-foot fencing and put it up as a test on April 7.

Calendar: Lisa has estimates from Arlington Litho and will get them from Swifty. The cost may be too high to be worth while unless we can get sponsors like nurseries in exchange for some advertising.